

## FLORIDA NEWS.

From the Columbia Times and Gazette.  
Copy of a letter received at the Office of  
the Times and Gazette, dated  
FORT BROOKE, Tampa Bay,  
April 13, 1836.

DEAR SIR—This is the first opportunity offered of writing to you again since I left Volusia. I write in great haste.

We met with no Indians—saw no recent trails of any, after leaving Volusia, until we reached the river Ocklawaha, 30 miles from that place. The river being higher than usual, the troops were halted to build a bridge for the transportation of the cannon and baggage-wagons. On the opposite side of a lake, on the left, two fires were kindled after we halted, supposed to be the signal of one party of Indians to another. Col. Butler, with his battalion, was ordered to cross the river and scour the vicinity of these fires. He had not gone more than three miles before four Indians were discovered and pursued by the advance guard. Gen. Joseph Shelton was of Butler's party. He charged, ahead of the advance guard, upon one of the Indians, who had separated in the race from the others. When within 25 steps of the Indian, Shelton levelled his gun—the Indian turned and presented his rifle at the General—Shelton fired first, and put six buck-shot in the neck of the savage, who, being evidently mortally wounded, turned and hobbled off. Shelton finding no cap on the tube of the other barrel of his gun, dropped it, drew a pistol, advanced to within five or six feet of the Indian, and snapped at his breast; at this moment the Indian brought his rifle nearly to his shoulder, and shot Shelton in the hip bone, the ball passing obliquely through; it was cut out from the opposite side near the back-bone. At this time Mr. Gibson, of the Fairfield troop, came up and discharged the contents of his musket in the back of the Indian. Shelton was badly wounded, but, I am happy to say, is fast recovering. He leaves to-day for Pensacola, and will be attended by Dr. Watts of Laurens, as Surgeon. I am thus particular in giving the details of this affair, because the conduct of Gen. Shelton—obviously gallant and manly—deserves to be remembered; and because, too, the Indian killed was recognized by the volunteers from St. Augustine and the guides as Ko-ha-ha-joo, (in our language signifying *Mad Wolf*), a chief of distinction and influence of the Micapanopy tribe, who commanded, it is said, 45 or 50 warriors. The others of his party escaped. The next day Cols. Goodwyn and Butler, with a battalion of the mounted men, were sent ahead to reconnoitre the Indian town Pilaklikaha—the residence of Jumper and Micapanopy, two distinguished chiefs. They had proceeded five or six miles on this expedition, when the advance guard, a little distance in front of the main body, were fired upon from a hammock, on the left of their path by a party of from 40 or 50 Indians. The Indians kept up a brisk fire whilst the men were being formed in order for the engagement, which being done, and the men ordered to charge the hammock, the enemy retreated. Sergeant Nicholas Summer, of Hargrove's Company, from Newberry, had his leg broken, and private Wm. Jackson, of Picken's Company, from Anderson, was shot in the flesh part of his thigh. Four horses were shot—one killed under the rider. The battalion of Infantry commanded by Maj. Kirby, and consisting of four companies of U. S. Artillery, and Capt. Elmore's Company, was marched up to the scene of action in double quick time—formed and ordered to charge the hammock; which was done, without seeing any thing of the enemy. On passing beyond this hammock, into an old field, the Indians were seen collected around a fire at the distance of three or four hundred yards. On being discovered they sprang from their seats around the fire, set up a yell, or war-hoop, and retreated 200 yards back to a hammock, on the edge of which, and for some distance in front, were a number of pine trees. The battalion advanced, and when within proper distance fired upon them—they firing all the time upon the battalion from behind the trees. The battalion was ordered to charge with fixed bayonets; which was promptly done, and the savages fled precipitately from their ground. On reaching the hammock it was found impossible to penetrate it, the mud and water being very deep; and the battalion was ordered back to their former ground in the field, within firing distance of the hammock. When on the edge of this hammock, and some a short distance into it, up to their waists in mud and water, we were fired upon from the swamp, the balls cutting the limbs of trees over our heads. I suppose that a thousand bullets were discharged by the battalion, with what effect is not known. It was remarked, that during the engagement, which was kept up briskly for about twenty minutes, a party of five or six were repeatedly seen employed as though they were carrying off the dead or wounded, which is their custom. We perceived, when on the ground which the enemy had occupied, that the trees were cut at a proper height and with sufficient force to have done execution. The mounted men were sent down to charge the hammock and outflank the enemy on their right, which was attempted in vain. There is not in all Florida a more secure position for hostile Indians to occupy than this very hammock. There are various opinions as to the number of Indians in this engagement—some

thought 40 or 50, others 80 or 100. From their audacity, and the distance for which they extended along the edge of the hammock, the latter opinion is most probably correct. One man of the U. S. Artillery was badly wounded in the jaw, another struck, but not hurt. A bundle of clothes, with blood upon them, was found in the hammock, dropped by an Indian who was killed or wounded.

On the day after this skirmish the troops reached Pilaklikaha, and burned it. It had been abandoned, apparently for several months. We were not attacked again on our march to this place. On the Hillsborough river, 22 miles from this port, on the road leading to Fort King, a Fort was erected by the troops from Alabama and Florida, under command of Col. Lindsay, and Capt. Marks, with a company of from 70 to 80 men, from N. Orleans, left in command of it; Col. Lindsay marching to the Withlacoochee with the main body of his regiment. This garrison was attacked on the 27th ult. on every side at the same time by about 200 Indians, who kept up a brisk fire for two hours, in that time firing as many thousand balls into the pocket. Finding they were "biting against a file," they retired, discomfited by the fight. One of Marks' men, who was outside the pickets, was caught, butchered and scalped; and one inside was wounded. It is said 12 or 15 of the Indians were killed—one was shot out of a tree from which he was firing down into the garrison.

The regiment of mounted men from S. C. arrived at this place on the 5th instant. Col. Brisbane's regiment of Infantry, and Maj. Kirby's battalion, were left at a camp 13 miles back—which is dignified by the name of *Camp Shelton*. Col. Lindsay, with his forces, arrived the day before. He had marched within ten miles of the Withlacoochee, had a little skirmishing with detached parties of the enemy, but no very important engagement.

"Another movement will be made tomorrow. A mixed Indian, half Spaniard half Seminole, was brought in a prisoner the other day by Capt. Green of the U. S. Cutter Dallas; this fellow was captured by friendly Spaniards on the coast near Charlotte's Harbor. He was interrogated by an interpreter, and he confessed that the women and children, plunder, and negroes, of the Indians, were concentrated at the head of Pea Creek, within ten miles of Charlotte's Harbor. Gen. Scott has thought it advisable to act upon this information.—The Spaniard has been taken around to Charlotte's Harbor in the Cutter—three or four hundred of the Louisiana troops have been sent by water. Tomorrow morning the S. C. troops will take up the line of march, with six days' provisions on their backs, and two bushels corn on their horses, for Pea Creek, which, by land, is distant 30 or 40 miles from this place. The Spaniard has promised to conduct the troops to the camp of the enemy. If he is to be relied on, and the Indians are unwary, we may strike the finishing blow yet.

The S. C. Troops will continue their march from Pea Creek to Volusia, and then, or at Picolata, be discharged. The measles continue to prevail. Lieuts. Douglass and Hemphill, and three or four others of Elmore's company, will be discharged here, and will leave for home in the first boat going to Mobile.

In addition, the bearer of the above letter, a member of Capt. Elmore's company, who was discharged on account of bad health, informs the Editor of the Times, that Col. Butler, of Columbia, Lieuts. Douglass and Hemphill, of Elmore's company, Capt. Chesnut and Lieut. Boykin, of the Camden company, and several of the men, invalids, were on their way home. Capt. Elmore's company has been reduced by sickness, from 115 to 75.

AUGUSTA, APRIL 29.

A gentleman from Jefferson county, gives us the following brief account of some of the incidents attending the march from Fort Drane to Tampa Bay, as related to him by Maj. Douglass. Major D. left Tampa on the afternoon of the 15th, and arrived in Louisville the 20th, via Pensacola.

Maj. Douglass states that on the march to Tampa, they had two battles and several skirmishes with the Indians. The first battle was at a hammock near the Withlacoochee. On approaching the hammock, the advance guard fell back and reported 500 or more Indians in sight. Gen. Scott then prepared for action, and advanced with all his army in a few hundred yards of the hammock—when the Indians were discovered on the opposite side, in a cleared place, holding up their hands, without their arms. Gen. S. supposing they did not wish to fight, sent an interpreter to them, but they would not receive him. He then ordered a Lieutenant, with an Indian, negro, and one or two men, to ride into the hammock, and hold up a white handkerchief—when several Indians came out to meet them. The Indians stated that they did not wish to fight, and would come that night and have a talk with Gen. Scott. They returned and reported to Gen. S.; but the interpreter informed Gen. S. that it was his opinion the Indians would not come in, and only wanted time to remove their women and children; that the hammock they were in, was the place Oseola bragged about, and called it the "core" of the Withlacoochee, and said that white men could never enter there.—But the Gen. still believing the Indians wished to make peace, and would come in, ordered his army back a short distance, and commanded that a gun should not be fired,

which order created great dissatisfaction among the volunteers, seeing the Indians just across the hammock, in considerable force, and they not permitted to make battle with them. The Indians not complying with their promise, on the next morning Gen. Scott made an attack upon the hammock; when his army was within two hundred yards of the hammock, the Indians commenced a tremendous yelling and howling for a few minutes, and then ceased; the General not knowing whether the Indians had retreated or not, still continued to advance on the hammock, and when within about 150 yards the Indians commenced a heavy firing upon them; they, however, succeeded in routing them. Maj. Douglass thinks that the loss on the part of the Indians must have been considerable, from the very many signs of blood and the number of places where the Indians dragged off their dead. They then pursued them to another hammock, where they had another battle with them; after which, for the want of provisions, Gen. Scott was compelled to take up the line of march for Tampa Bay.

Maj. Douglass states that Gen. Scott and his army left Tampa on the morning of the 16th, for Fort Drane; he took with him nine days' provisions, in which time he expected to arrive at Fort Drane, and that he would then discharge all the volunteers in Florida from the several States, and remain himself with the regulars; and that in consequence of the sickly season coming on, and the indisposition of his men, he would not be able to end the war during the present campaign.

MOBILE, APRIL 23.—Direct from Florida.—Major General Macomb and Captain Cooper, his aid, of the United States Army, arrived in town yesterday, from Pensacola, which place they reached night before last, in a United States Cutter, from Tampa Bay. Dates from Tampa are down to the 15th inst.

On the 11th, General Smith, of the Louisiana Volunteers, was sent with 500 men, to Charlotte Harbour, to ascend the stream and capture all the Indian families supposed to be secreted there. Another force, consisting of about 200 mounted cavalry, was despatched to drive the Indians in that direction.

Gen. Scott shipped off, on the 12th, about 400 Seminoles, men, women and children. They were Black Dirt and his tribe. On the 15th the army started to return on both sides of the Withlacoochee.

There are 400 now sick at Tampa Bay, and the climate is getting worse and worse for the army. It is said to be the design of General Scott to discharge the volunteers and send them home before the 1st of May, and to select the most healthy points compatible with the service, to establish posts of regulars, of whom there are about 1300, to keep the Indians in check until the hot season shall have passed.

From the Savannah Georgian, May 2.

LATE FROM FLORIDA.

The steam boat *Florida*, from Picolata, arrived this morning, bringing the companies of *Richmond Blues*, under command of Capt. Robertson, and *Huachuas*, Capt. Bodes. We have learnt nothing by this arrival, in addition to the following information contained in a ship from the *Jacksonville Courier*.

From the Jacksonville Courier Extra, April 28.

LATEST INDIAN AFFAIRS.

On Monday the 18th inst. two men, Mr. Ferth and Mr. More, were attacked within less than one quarter of a mile distant from Micapanopy, by two Indians. Mr. Ferth was wounded—his arm broken by a rifle ball. Both reached the Fort at Micapanopy. The horse, which they were driving in a cart, they left on being attacked, was taken by the Indians. They cut the harness off him, and one of them mounting the ungearred animal, rode off.

On Wednesday morning, 2 o'clock, the 20th inst. an attack was made on Fort Drane. The Sentinel on duty says that the attack was made by about fifty Indians, all mounted. They first fired on the house of Mr. Ledworth, near the Fort, in which were three or four persons, who fled to the Fort in safety. The firing on the Fort continued one hour. The few men under Capt. Lendrum, who commanded said post, returned the fire. No lives on the part of the whites were lost. At day-light, blood was discovered in several places, on the ground where the Indians had been. It is therefore supposed that some of the enemy were either killed or wounded. During the attack, it would seem another party of the Indians were busy in the vicinity of the Fort. They carried off three negroes belonging to General Clinch, and four belonging to Col. G. Humphreys. They also took away seventeen horses belonging to the service.

When the express left, the army had, on its return from Tampa, reached the neighborhood of the Withlacoochee. Gen. Scott, with the command of Gen. Eustis, was on the march to Volusia, where a post will be kept up. Gen. Scott will proceed to St. Augustine, and there establish his headquarters for the summer. Gen. Clinch was, after scouring the country bordering on the Withlacoochee, to march to Fort Drane, where he has, it is supposed, ere this arrived. Col. Lindsay, at the head of the centre column, did not leave Tampa Bay till the arrival there of Gen. Scott. He marched north also, with the two wings, and is to return to Tampa Bay. All this being done, the campaign ends till next November. It is possible, but not very probable, that one or the other of these three

divisions have had or may have a skirmish with Indians, before the close of the campaign.

The Louisiana Volunteers were discharged at Tampa Bay. The Georgia and South Carolina Troops will be discharged, and return to their homes.

From the Charleston Patriot, of May 3d.

TERMINATION OF THE INDIAN CAMPAIGN.

Lieut. Van Buren, Aid to Gen. Scott, and Capt. Finley, Aid to General Eustis, arrived here this forenoon from Picolata, via Savannah, in the Steam packet *William Seabrook*, from Savannah. We have conversed with both these gentlemen who have politely imparted to us all the information they possessed.

Lieut. Van Buren states, that owing to the commencement of the warm weather, the Campaign had been brought to a close. The regular forces had gone into summer quarters at St. Augustine. There were supposed to be about 200 on the sick list at Tampa Bay, and 80 at Volusia.

Capt. Finley has communicated to us the following intelligence: The left wing of the army of Florida, arrived at Tampa Bay, on the 5th of April, left there on the 17th, and marched to Volusia, by Pilaklikaha. The active operations of the campaign have ceased, from the sickly season having commenced. The South Carolina Volunteers left Volusia on Friday the 20th, to march to St. Augustine, where Col. Brisbane's Regiment would be discharged, and sent by transports to the city. Col. Goodwyn's mounted men would be discharged at Jacksonville. The regulars it is believed will be kept in Florida, to garrison posts which may be important, in the commencement of the next campaign. The Indians were no where in any force, and are supposed to be scattered all over the territory.

## Texian Frontier News.

From the Mobile Advertiser.

We are indebted to the politeness of J. F. Mosely, Esq. of Courtland, Alabama, who came passenger in the steam packet *Leonidas*, from New Orleans on Saturday, for the following letter addressed by Major General Gaines, to the Governors of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee. It may be relied upon as authentic, and is of great importance. Much sensibility is manifested upon our south western frontier with respect to the course which the Government of the United States intends to pursue with regard to Texas. It is manifest, from the letter, that the Government of the United States has taken the proper position with respect to the contending parties in Texas, and that General Gaines has manifested his usual energetic attention to the public service in taking this necessary precautionary measure to enable him to execute the important duties devolved upon him, and to cause our neutrality to be respected.

[COPY.]

HEAD QUARTERS, WESTERN DEPARTMENT, Natchitoches, La., April 8th, 1836.

Sir,—The War in Texas, which has of late assumed a sanguinary and savage aspect, has induced the President of the United States to require a considerable augmentation of regular force to be concentrated upon this section of the national frontier, to which my attention has been particularly directed. He deems it to be the duty of the United States to remain entirely neutral, and to cause their neutrality to be respected—peaceably if practicable—forcibly if necessary.

The 33d article of the Treaty with Mexico requires both the contracting parties to prevent "by force all hostilities and incursions on the part of the Indian nations living within their respective boundaries, so that the United States of America will not suffer their Indians to attack the citizens of the Mexican States," &c.

The provision of this article I am particularly instructed to cause to be enforced; and I have, pursuant to instructions, taken measures to make known to the various Indian tribes inhabiting that portion of the United States bordering upon the Mexican territory, on the waters of the Red and Arkansas rivers, the determination of the Government to prevent any hostile incursions into Texas; and have directed that the Chiefs be called upon to inculcate upon their people the necessity of carefully abstaining from any violation of the above mentioned engagements—and I have moreover informed them, pursuant to the orders of the President, that I will not hesitate to use the force at my disposal for the purpose of preventing any such designs.

I have learned from several of our citizens entitled to credit, that one Manuel Flores, a Mexican Spaniard, but for several years past a citizen of "Spanish town" in this State, near the Sabine Ridge, has been lately commissioned by persons professing to act by the authority of the Mexican Government, for the purpose of enticing the Indians in the western prairie on our side of the boundary line, to join them in the war of extermination now raging in Texas; and that with this view, the Agent, Manuel Flores, accompanied by a stranger, has lately passed up the valley of the Red River, and has already produced considerable excitement among the Caddo Indians. And I have very recently learned from several intelligent persons in Texas, and others who have lately been there, that many of our Indians have gone over to the Texas side of the line.

These facts and circumstances present to me the important question—whether I am to sit still and suffer these movements to be so far matured as to place the white settlements on both sides of the line wholly in the power of these savages—or whether I ought not instantly to prepare the means for protecting the frontier settlements, compelling the Indians to return to their own homes and hunting grounds?

I cannot but decide in favor of the last alternative which this question presents: for nothing can be more evident than that an Indian war, commencing on either side of the line, will as surely extend to both sides, as that a lighted quick-match thrust into one side of a powder magazine would extend the explosion to both sides.

decision of the President of the United States, might prove fatal to a large portion of the frontier inhabitants, I have determined to solicit of your Excellency, a brigade, to consist of two or three battalions of volunteers—as many to be mounted as practicable—to repair to this place as soon as may be convenient, by companies or battalions; to receive their arms and camp equipage at New Orleans and Baton Rouge. There may be eight or ten companies to a battalion.

Should the war in Texas be brought to a close without the apprehended Indian hostilities, the volunteers will be discharged forthwith.

With perfect respect,  
I have the honor to be your ob't. serv't.  
(Signed) EDMUND P. GAINES,  
Major General Commanding  
To His Excellency Edward D. White,  
Governor of the State of Louisiana,  
New Orleans.

We understand that Gen. Gaines has despatched Capt. Hitchcock to Santa Anna, to ascertain whether he has invited the Indians from this side the boundary line between the United States and Texas, to assist him in the war waging with the Texans. He goes of course with the flag of the United States to protect him.

FROM TEXAS.

MOBILE, April 20.  
By the New-Orleans mail, which arrived about 2 to-day, we have the following news from Texas, received by the Levant.

We learn further that the Mexicans have landed at the Sabine, and that the frontier settlers, including the whole population of Nacogdoches, are fleeing for their lives.

The Indians on the frontier, have broken out into open warfare, and Gen. Gaines has moved against them.

NACOGDOCHES, April 12.

To Gen. T. T. Mason, Fort Jessup.

Dear Sir—We hasten to inform you that the information received before your departure is confirmed. They encamped at the Sabine night before last. They have been piloted by the Caddoes. Their combined force is formidable; we cannot ascertain the exact number. You know our condition—comment is useless. Many women and children must fall victims to the merciless enemy. We all leave here to-day with a view of concentrating at Autogee at St. Augustine.

Signed R. A. IRVING,  
Acting Com. of this Municipality.

FORT JESSUP, April 14.

Dear Sir—Nacogdoches has been abandoned, and probably in ruins: a detachment of the Mexican army has, by an extraordinary movement, been united with the Indians of the North, whom it is reported are 1500 strong, and unless timely success is obtained, the country will be overrun, and the depredations and horrors which were so lately enacted in Florida will now be removed to the western border of our happy land. Hundreds of families are rapidly fleeing from the ruthless savages, who are hastening down upon them, and all is confusion between here and St. Augustine.—Gov. Quitman, the noble and brave Quitman, who merely went to explore the country, and lay out the promised land, found himself and his handful of devoted adherents hemmed in by the Mexicans on one side and the cursed Indians on the other, and he is now rallying the scattered inhabitants and forming a rear guard to protect the unfortunate women and children, who are hurrying with all possible speed to the Sabine. Gen. Mason reached here last evening—and Gen. Gaines, with just promptitude, has ordered 8 or 10 Companies from this Garrison to be on the line of march by 3 o'clock P. M. and to reach the Sabine as early as possible. He will take the command, and thus add another laurel to the crown of glory which he has so recently and justly earned in the East.

Rouse up the friends of Texas with all possible haste, and urge the Florida volunteers on their return to take vessels and steamers, and embark for the Trinity and reach Robins' crossing as soon as possible, and protect the suffering inhabitants in that quarter; cut off the retreat of the Mexicans, and restore Gen. Houston, who is now fighting his way, I hope to victory, on the banks of the Brazos—I shall continue on to-day till I reach my friend Quitman—dead or alive. God grant he may be safe, and preserved for the future good of his country and Texas.

By the Levant we have also information that the Indians on the Mexican frontier have risen in great force; that one American had been killed, and all was terror and confusion in the country. Gen. Gaines had advanced to the Sabine with about 700 men and was collecting all the force of the country to attempt to stop the advance of the Indians. Report estimated them 10,000 strong.

Texas.—The Charleston Southern Patriot, commenting on the evils of the present system of disposing of the public lands, thus illustrates one of the objections:

"Another ill effect of these money practices is, that Government becomes embroiled with foreign countries, whose territory is contiguous to our own. The contest now waging in Texas is a case in point. The standard of independence in that country has been raised for the benefit of land speculators, who thus turn the enthusiasm of youth for liberty and for the excitement of arms, to their own account. The names of freedom and independence are prostituted to selfish ends, and the adventurous and enterprising, instead of pursuing the ordinary paths of industry, are led off into wild schemes for the sudden acquisition of wealth, but which are likely to terminate in disappointment, if not in ruin and an ignominious death."